ſuch unnatural inſtances of folly and cruelty, nor does the deſpotiſm that kills virtue and genius in the bud, hover over Europe with that deſtructive blaſt which deſolates Turky, and renders the men, as well as the ſoil, unfruitful.

Women are every where in this deplorable ſtate; for, in order to preſerve their innocence, as ignorance is courteouſly termed, truth is hidden from them, and they are made to aſſume an artificial character before their faculties have acquired any ſtrength. Taught from their infancy that beauty is woman's ſceptre, the mind ſhapes itſelf to the body, and, roaming round its gilt cage, only ſeeks to adorn its priſon. Men have various employments and purſuits which engage their attention, and give a character to the opening mind; but women, confined to one, and having their thoughts conſtantly directed to the moſt inſignificant part of themſelves, ſeldom extend their views beyond the triumph of the hour. But was their underſtanding once emancipated from the ſlavery to which the pride and ſenſuality of man and their ſhort-ſighted deſire, like that of dominion in tyrants, of preſent ſway, has ſubjected them, we

we ſhould probably read of their weakneſſes with ſurpriſe. I muſt be allowed to purſue the argument a little farther.

Perhaps, if the exiſtence of an evil being was allowed, who, in the allegorial language of ſcripture, went about ſeeking whom he ſhould devour, he could not more effectually degrade the human character than by giving a man abſolute power.

This argument branches into various ramifications.—Birth, riches, and every extrinſic advantage that exalt a man above his fellows, without any mental exertion, ſink him in reality below them. In proportion to his weakneſs, he is played upon by deſigning men, till the bloated monſter has loſt all traces of humanity. And that tribes of men, like flocks of ſheep, ſhould quietly follow ſuch a leader, is a ſoleciſm that only a deſire of preſent enjoyment and narrowneſs of underſtanding can ſolve. Educated in ſlaviſh dependence, and enervated by luxury and ſloth, where ſhall we find men who will ſtand forth to aſſert the rights of man;—or claim the privilege of moral beings, who ſhould have but one road to excellence? Slavery to monarchs and miniſters,